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Louisiana State University in Shreveport

the ALMAGEST

Thursday
March 15, 2007

MAR 16 2007
LSU SHREVEPORT

LSUS becomes cemetery for birds

by Devin White
and Erin Pyles

American robins are dying all over campus, and the cause of their deaths remains a mystery. After collecting numerous dead birds found in various places around campus, the campus police contacted the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry who picked up some of the birds on Feb. 6.

The dead birds were taken to Baton Rouge to be tested for any diseases that may have caused their deaths.

"We received a phone call from them last week, and they said the birds tested negative for Avian bird flu," said Rebecca Chiles, police chief, LSUS Police Department. "That's all we know at this point."

West Nile virus, though unlikely, is also being considered as a possible reason.

Other possible causes are being considered as well. Dr. James Ingold, professor of biological sciences, also known as the "bird-man," has suggested starvation as being the reason for the robins' deaths.

"This is the harshest time of winter for these birds," said Ingold. "With the large number on campus, their food, mainly earthworms, may be getting scarce."

Students are proposing their own theories as to the causes of the deaths.

"I have seen a lot of stray cats around the physical plant, but the dead birds don't look like they've been attacked," said Brent Nycum, senior computer science major. "They look like they just fell over dead."

As spring approaches, students can only hope there will be fewer dead birds crossing their paths to class and more live ones greeting students with their songs especially since there are many bad omens regarding dead birds.

One omen says that seeing dead or dying birds indicates a period of coming disappointments, and with mid-terms here many students could be facing some disappointing grades. So if you encounter one of these dead birds, look the other way.

Photos by Chris Gray

Many dead birds have been spotted around campus lately. Although the cause is still unknown, the campus police and biology professors are working on the reason behind it all. Students are also hoping to see less of the creatures lying on the ground instead of flying in the air. The birds have been found dead outside of Bronson Hall, the Business & Education building and the Sciences building.

FEATURES • 5

Debate
Milstead wins competition

SPORTS • 6

Sports
Pilots leading conference

the Almagest

Volume 50, Issue 7

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"Almagest" is an Arabic word meaning "great" or "majestic." It is also the title of a book written by the ancient astronomer Ptolemy who is pictured on the front page of our paper.

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Editorial Policy

The information presented in this publication by no means reflects the opinions of the administration or staff of LSUS. *The Almagest* seeks to provide information for the LSUS campus and community; to involve students, faculty and staff; and to provide a public forum for ideas as guaranteed in the First Amendment of the Constitution. Comments and complaints are welcome and should be addressed to Mike Schwalke, Editor-in-Chief. They must be accompanied by your full name and e-mail address.

Letters Policy

Letters to the editor are encouraged. However, the staff reserves the right to edit letters for clarity, length, and content. Any letter submitted by a club or organization must be signed by all members of the group or by the group's president. Letters should be e-mailed or submitted to the Almagest office, BH 344, by 5 p.m. on the Friday preceding the Thursday publication date. Please type the letter and include your classification and major. *The Almagest* reserves the right not to publish submitted materials. Obscene, libelous and anonymous letters will not be printed.

SGA presidental candidates speak to students

by Joe Hayes

Students, it's time for us to make a change! If you think I'm talking about the SGA presidency, you're right. I'm also talking about a change in the attendance policy at LSUS. It's certainly not the only change we need, but it's the one that I think we can get done first. Change has been talked about for the last two weeks. How about we *actually* change something?

Actual change rests squarely on the ability of your SGA president to convince the administration that the ideas of your senators are important and that they should be implemented. Make no mistake; our current president has tried very hard to serve the students of LSUS during her time in office. I have decided to run for SGA president because, while my opponent has tried, she has consistently been unable to convince the administration to make any of the *real* changes that students all over campus have been asking for.

Sometimes it's necessary to realize that a person has given everything they have to offer to a cause, thank them for their service and move to the next level. I believe that I can be that next level of change for LSUS. I believe that I can be the person who shows the administration the benefits of eliminating the attendance policy, of e-mail forwarding for students and of paying to open the campus-wide lab 24 hours a day during finals.

As the Louisiana State Champion in Intercollegiate Debate, I have shown that I have the ability to help people understand my viewpoint and then to convince them to take a long, hard look at changing their views. I have learned these skills at LSUS; now let me use them to help take our University to the next level!

by Denitra Dennis

In my experiences through SGA I have served the student body as a College of Business senator and parliamentarian, executive secretary and, most recently, your president. I am seeking re-election in order to continue my passion and responsibility of positively influencing the quality of student life at LSUS.

On campus, I have been instrumental in ensuring that student concerns are met such as the repair of the University Court apartments' bridge, inclusion of a Dance Dance Revolution machine in the UC game room, limited campus-wide lab hours, and more. I have also accomplished the long-standing goal of transforming the mascot from an idea to a formally-approved version eligible for use by the university.

On a state-wide level, I have worked with members of the Louisiana Board of Regents as well as the Louisiana Council of Student Body Presidents to urge state legislators to offer students more need-based aid rather than traditional merit-based aid that has increasing GPA requirements. I have also been working with the other presidents to task the Board of Regents to investigate and offer further resolutions to the state to lower the cost of text books in Louisiana. COSBP members elected me the vice chair of the body which is composed of roughly 28 participating SGA presidents from around the state. I plan to continue these efforts as well as focus on more flexible class scheduling, increasing free student services, creating a more student-friendly university-wide attendance policy and restructuring the usage and decision making process of the technology fee.

In closing, I have spent the last year of my term building positive relationships with faculty, staff and administrators while also acting as a liaison between students and the administration. With elections right around the corner, remember that the candidate chosen in this important election must have the ability to represent you, LSUS and all Louisiana students in a positive manner and certainly with a diplomatic spirit.

In This Issue Vol. 50, Issue 7

Campus News . . . . . p. 3
Features . . . . . p. 4
Features . . . . . p. 5
Sports . . . . . p. 6
Entertainment . . . . . p. 7
Fun & Games . . . . . p. 8
Sports Schedule . . . . . p. 8

CAMPUS NEWS

SGA elections heating up

Campaining bringing up important issues at LSUS

by Jeremiah Raab

The signs are up, the chalk writings are on the sidewalks and the air of democracy is floating through the hallways of LSUS.

Elections for Student Government Association offices are coming up the week after Spring Break, and the candidates are visibly campaigning for top spots. Presidential and vice presidential positions are up for grabs in the upcoming elections. Mayte Pino seems to have a lock on the secretarial spot, as she is the only candidate running this year.

So far, the race has been fairly clean, despite a few expected jibes coming from all parties involved.

Joseph Hayes, president pro-tempore of SGA and presidential candidate, seemed to start things off at the March 8 SGA meeting. Hayes expressed concern about an SGA Facebook group created by SGA president Denitra Dennis, who is running for re-election. He claimed that without SGA senate approval, using the SGA name on Facebook is against SGA bylaws within the constitution and "directly correlated with the probation of Matthew Baker." Baker, SGA senator, was put on probation six weeks ago for using his SGA title on an e-mail sent out to students.

Hayes said he did not have a problem with the SGA leaders as a whole, just with Dennis.

"I don't feel that she is utilizing the right skills to convince (the administration) of what the students need," Hayes said. "That's why I think I would make a better president."

Hayes said that his experience on the debate team will enable him to get things done that could not get done before.

Dennis claims she has been expecting this criticism for a long time now, stating that Hayes has wanted to rule the SGA, in one way or another, since he joined a year ago.

"(Hayes) made it clear that he wanted to be president from the beginning," she said. Dennis said that in the past, she has questioned his motives.

"(Hayes) has tried to set himself up for election," from the beginning, she said, not for the good of the student body, but for "personal motives."

> "I don't feel that she is utilizing the right skills to convince them (the administration) of what the students want."
>
> Joseph Hayes
> Presidential candidate

On Tuesday, Hayes defended himself by calling those accusations a "lie," claiming that the true power of the SGA comes from the senators, not the president. In running for president, Hayes claims he would be taking a step down in power but will gain access to the administration.

"It's not about taking over the senate, because as the president, I (would) not have the power to do that," he said. "It's about getting to the administration and convincing them of what the students really want."

As to the Facebook problem, Dennis claims she created the SGA group to draw students into the SGA, which differs from Baker's situation in which he unknowingly called an LSUS professor "lazy." Whether or not she went against SGA policy will be dealt with, it seems, after the elections.

In an editorial that ran in last week's *Almagest*, Nicole Goad, senator for the College of Liberal Arts and vice presidential candidate, claimed she decided to run for office when, at an SGA meeting, she saw a "breakdown in leadership."

According to Ebonee Rhodes, SGA secretary and vice presidential candidate, this boils down to last-minute politicking and feels comfortable with her own record as secretary.

"I would actually be interested in knowing what specifically is wrong with the leadership," she said. "As far as my responsibilities, they were all done." Rhodes would not comment further, claiming she would wait until she had more information on the subject.

Debates are scheduled to take place today in the UC Port at Common Hour.

Campus Briefs

Women in the service getting help from LSUS

Service women fighting in Iraq are getting a little help from LSUS and the department of psychology.

An idea by Dr. Gloria Raines, vice chancellor for student affairs, was brought to the attention of Dr. Rebecca Nolan, professor of psychology. Together they are working to solicit donations that will assist active service women in Iraq.

Donation boxes are set up in front of the psychology department office in the Business & Education building, the UC Port and the Bookstore. Items that are needed include such things as travel-sized shampoo and conditioner, hand and body lotion and other sanitary products. Complete item lists are available on the boxes themselves.

Cash donations are acceptable as well and need to be given directly to Nolan, in room 353 in the Business & Education building or to Raines, in room 208 in the Administration building.

By Jeremiah Raab

SGA UPDATE

- SGA presidential candidates will square off today at Common Hour in the UC Port.
- Proposal to change voting dates of SGA elections for next year to coincide with Spring Fling.

VOTE!

The SGA elections will be March 25-31 on MOODLE

Vote for

Denitra Dennis/Ebonee Rhodes

SGA President/ Vice President

Dedication, Experience & Excellence in Service

Lecture featuring speakers

by Brittany Harness

LSUS' annual Lincoln Lecture is today and students, faculty, staff and the public are invited to the event.

The Frank and Virginia Williams Lincoln Lectures date back to 1994 and are an LSUS tradition that brings well known and highly educated speakers to campus. Offered each spring, the lecture is the only annual Lincoln event in Louisiana, according to the LSUS International Lincoln Center for American Studies Web site.

Sponsored by the International Lincoln Center for American Studies, the Student Activities Board and the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities, the lecture will feature guest speaker Dr. Craig L. Symonds, chief historian of the USS Monitor Center Mariners' Museum, from Newport News, Va. His résumé includes being a retired pro-

LECTURE continued on p. 5

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LSU IN SHREVEPORT
WASHINGTON SEMESTER

LSU IN SHREVEPORT
24th Annual
Mini- "Washington Semester"

MAY 14-30, 2007

- Least expensive Washington Semester in the nation
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- Open to all students, regardless of major, year in school, or school of normal attendance
- No out-of-state tuition; stay in hotel in downtown DC

There are two large fixed costs: triple occupancy hotel room (approximately $704), and tuition fees ($717). Transportation to and from DC as well as meals, are up to participants to arrange as well as some minor expenses.

DEADLINES:

$400 deposit due DECEMBER 1, 2006. This guarantees a slot on the "Washington Semester" and applies to your hotel/tuition fee. It is non-refundable. Balance for hotel/tuition is due MARCH 16, 2007

For further information:
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International debate comes to LSUS

by Christine Bradley

LSUS is hosting the 10th anniversary tournament of the International Public Debate Association.

The event begins early Friday, March 30 with convention meetings and paper presentations. Competition will start at 1 p.m. on Friday. Debate rounds will also run all Saturday. Semi-final and final rounds are Sunday, April 1, and a banquet at the Clarion hotel will follow.

"These are the best and brightest students coming together to argue about the issues of the day," said Mary Jarzabek, director of the debate team and president of the IPDA.

Jarzabek says the competition will be interesting; LSUS has a few impressive debaters on its side.

"We're looking at some pretty good rounds and pretty tight races," she said.

The 10th anniversary is expected to be special. Debate coaches are inviting alumni to the tournament, according to Keith Milstead, captain of the debate team. A few of the alumni invited are known for their work in the Clinton administration.

"I think it speaks volumes," said Milstead. "The organization is, on some level, accomplishing what it wants to."

Jarzabek said this will likely be the largest debate tournament the IPDA has ever had. Although the majority of participating schools are in neighboring states, the organization is expanding. Students will come from Texas, Arkansas, Oklahoma and states as far away as Idaho to compete.

"It's a privilege to be able to see an organization develop and grow as it has in this area of the country," said Jarzabek.

Jarzabek said LSUS is a great facility for debate tournaments. There are several classrooms, a cooperative administration and students volunteering to judge.

"It's very easy to throw a tournament here because of the involvement of students, faculty, staff and the administration," said Jarzabek.

Jarzabek also encourages professors to offer extra credit to students for attending the tournament. Students can volunteer to judge, keep time or just come as a spectator.

"These are the people that are going to be in charge in the next 10 years," said Jarzabek, "and I think it's worth a look."

The banquet following the final rounds on Sunday is not just for unwinding after a long weekend. It will encourage networking and fellowship among competitors. Jarzabek will also be officially stepping down as director of the debate team and president of IPDA at the banquet.

"It's time," said Jarzabek. "I'll be working on my dissertation and life after debate."

Both Jarzabek and Milstead agree the parting is bittersweet.

"She's had a great run," said Milstead. "I think stepping down is her way of saying she's ready to give someone else the reigns."

Mary Jarzabek

Keith Millstead, captain of the LSUS debate team, argues a point at a recent debate. LSUS will hold the international debate competition at LSUS beginning March 30.

LECTURE, continued from p.4

fessor at the Naval Academy for three decades and author of 10 books. He also served as Professor of Strategy at the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, R.I., for three years and at the Britannia Royal Naval College in Dartmouth, England, for a year.

Symonds' lecture is entitled "Sixteen Feet Tall: Abraham Lincoln and History."

Dr. William Pederson, professor of political science, American Studies chair in liberal arts and director of International Lincoln Center at LSUS, said students and those who attend can expect the guest lecturer to be highly energetic and informative.

"He's a great lecturer who is very lively," Pederson said.

Symonds' specialty is writing about the Navy during the Civil War; however, Pederson said the lecture will focus on how Symonds' gravitated towards Lincoln in his studies.

"He'll be discussing how he got interested in Abraham Lincoln as a political leader," Pederson said.

Symonds' Lincoln lecture is tonight at 7:30 p.m. in the Science Lecture Auditorium.

Milstead wins IPDA national debate

by Mike Schwalke

Keith Milstead proved once again why he is top brass on the LSUS debate team. Milstead, the captain of the team, competed in the Pi Kappa Delta National Convention and Tournament in Mount Pleasant, Mich., last weekend and won first prize in the International Public Debate Association category.

Milstead, a senior speech communications major, is no stranger to winning. This was his third national championship award, and he has not missed a top-tier elimination round in 10 tournaments this year. But Milstead said this win topped them all.

"The experience and the prestige of this particular tournament were very special for me," he said.

Since Milstead will graduate in December, this semester marks the end of his eight- year career as a competitive debater.

In the last three years Milstead has been an advocate of the IPDA style of debate and hopes that it will eclipse the parliamentary and cross-examination styles to become the dominant form of debate.

"I was trying to show that an IPDA debater could debate against the cross-examination debaters and win," he said. "I knew the tactics they were trying to pull." He also said that he was glad to see so many converts to the IPDA style.

LSUS will host this biennial event in 2009. Milstead acted as a student representative to the Pi Kappa Delta governing body on behalf of the university. He said that although he will soon have to end his career as a debater, he will continue to be involved with the debate team at LSUS.

SPORTS

Chrissy Chiri

Senior right fielder Colin Moro hit a two-run homer on Friday against William Carey College. The long ball was Moro's second of the year. He was named the Gulf Coast Atlantic Conference player of the week last week after hitting .533 that week with three doubles and two RBIs.

Sweep by LSUS puts team in first

by Chrissy Chiri

The LSUS Pilots played against William Carey College in Hattiesburg, Miss., last weekend and came home with three wins.

The sweep of the Crusaders moved LSUS into first place in the Gulf Coast Atlantic Conference and got them a No. 11 ranking in the NAIA national polls.

On Friday the Pilots played an evening game and won 5-3. Senior pitcher Kevin Jewell picked up his second win on the year.

Senior right fielder Colin Moro hit a two-run bomb in game one of the three-game series. It was his second of the year, and he is batting .323 on the year.

On Saturday, senior pitcher Matt Clayman picked up another win after the Pilots beat William Carey 4-2. Clayman went 5 2/3 innings and had nine strikeouts. He is 3-0 on the season. Senior pitcher Mark Dainty came into the game in relief and picked up the save for his team.

Senior third baseman Bryan Cooksey, who went 4-for-4 on Friday night, went 2-for-3 on in game two. Junior catcher Bryan Stebbings finished 1-for-2 with two RBIs and a run scored in game two.

In game three, which was played on Saturday as well, junior pitcher Juan Leon took the mound. He threw a shutout through seven innings and led his team to a 5-0 win. He is 5-0 on the year. Senior pitcher Daniel Welch relieved Leon in the eighth inning and had four strikeouts and one walk.

The Pilots play at home tomorrow against Belhaven College. The first pitch is scheduled for 6:30 p.m.

LSUS hopeful in national tournament

by Chrissy Chiri

The LSUS Pilots basketball team won the Gulf Coast Atlantic Conference tournament and got a bid into the NAIA national tournament.

The Pilots (25-7) received a No. 23 seed out of the 32 teams in the tournament. Round one of the tournament started yesterday and continues through March 20.

This is the Pilots third year in a row to go to the national tournament. Last year LSUS was seeded No. 2 in the tourney but got knocked out in the first round. In 2005, the Pilots advanced to the Sweet 16 but lost to John Brown University, who ended up winning the national championship.

"I know it is a coaching cliché, but we truly are playing our best basketball of the season," LSUS head coach Chad McDowell said. "Our focus the last month was taking care of business in conference play so we could make it to the tournament. In doing so, we have really come together and are not just winning games, we are playing 'team-orientated' basketball."

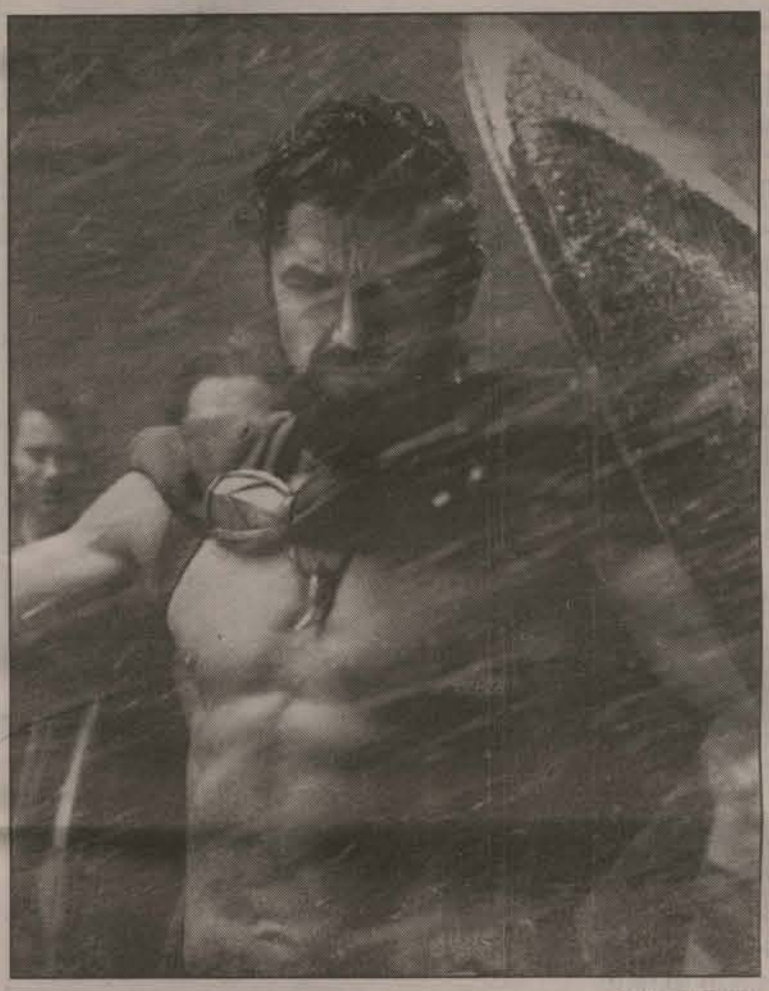
The Pilots played No. 10 seed Azusa Pacific University Cougars (27-6) yesterday at 4:30 p.m.

Because the Almagest goes to press on Tuesdays, readers will have to check out the April 5 issue to find out the results of that game. Readers can also check out the athletics page at www.lsus.edu for up-to-date scores.

GCAC 2007 Baseball Standings

Team	Record	Streak
LSUS	7-2	Won three
Belhaven	8-4	Lost two
Mobile	5-4	Won two
Spring Hill	4-5	Lost one
Loyola	3-6	Won one
William Carey	3-9	Lost seven

ENTERTAINMENT



Courtesy Photos

"300" has now hit theaters, and movie-goers are raving. Leonidas (Gerard Butler, above) leads 300 Spartans against the insurmountable Persian army (shown below). Although Sparta lost the day, they held out long enough for other Greek forces to arrive.

'300' worthy on big screen

by Chris Gray

This beautifully written, superbly acted and vividly depicted film tells the tale of the battle of Thermopylae in Ancient Greece where 300 Spartan warriors gave their lives to defend their lands. Based on the graphic novel by Frank Miller ("Sin City"), this film was completely accurate to the comic; every scene was taken directly from the panels of the book.

The plot of this film was historically accurate and artistically accurate. The only complaint about the film I have is that it seemed rushed, and there was not enough development to tell a deep and provocative story.

Gerard Butler ("Dracula 2000," "Timeline") portrays King Leonidas with such fervor that it sent a chill up my spine. Though there is no emotion in the printed word, Butler gave emphasis to his lines that were straight from the pages of the novel. His forceful delivery and emotional body language brought new depth to his performance.

He is quickly cementing himself as a Hollywood icon.

Lena Headey ("The Cave") gave a solid performance as Queen Gorgo. The way she was able to make her dialog fit into the story was amazing to watch. She could use her body to convey the message of a scene, or she could accentuate a scene with her dialog and on-screen chemistry.

David Wenham ("Van Helsing," "Lord of The Rings") was narrator and soldier in the film. His voice was his strong suit in the movie. His acting abilities were in top form for this film.

The director Zack Snyder ("Dawn of the Dead" 2004 remake) has just launched himself into a permanent position among the Hollywood elite.

Now with "300," he has once again proven he can maintain the original work's integrity and still produce a final product that pleases the purists and the new fans as well.

The special effects were extraordinary. Ninety percent of the film was shot on a green screen, and the CGI was completely dazzling. From computer-generated rhinoceroses and elephants to gruesome dismemberments and bloody effects, the film looked real. At the same time, it looked as if it were a painting coming to life.

"300" is a must see for comic book fans and history buffs alike. When you leave the theater you will be a Spartan at heart.

FUN & GAMES

The Almagest will be on hiatus until April 5 due to the Spring Break holiday.

Monjuni's at Pontico is now hiring college-aged servers

Sudoku Puzzle

2			4	5		8		
	9			3		1		2
	7	6			2		4	
3			5	7			2	
	5				8	3		4
7		4			1		8	
	1		2	8				6
6		3	7				5	
		8			3	7		9

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

Bert Stroud, the Anthropologist

By: Mike Schwalke and Diego Tripodi

BLAST IT. MARC WAS SUPPOSED TO BE HERE OVER AN HOUR AGO.
CONCIERGE. HAVE YOU SEEN MY COHORT?
MR. MALLORY HAS NOT CONTACTED THIS HOTEL, SIR.
STRANGE.
MARC, IT'S BERT. I NEED TO TALK TO YOU. I ENDED MY COMMISSION WITH DE VILLIERS...
SKEECH
HURRY AND BAG HIM!
I'LL TAKE YOU TO YOUR WRITER FRIEND, DOCTOR.

LSUS Sports Schedule

Friday, March 16

6:30 p.m.

Belhaven at LSUS*

(baseball)

Saturday, March 17

1 p.m.

Belhaven at LSUS*

(baseball double-header)

Tuesday, March 20

4 p.m.

LSUS at

Oklahome City University

(baseball double-header)

Wednesday, March 21

2 p.m.

LSUS at

Oklahome City University

(baseball double-header)

Friday, March 23

11:30 a.m.

LSUS at

University of Mobile*

(baseball)

Saturday, March 24

1 p.m.

LSUS at

University of Mobile*

(baseball double-header)

* asterisk denotes conference game